

Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Duncan

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

20092873

2009

HC 1040/DI 84+



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Whereas, The Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul, Turkey, is the Sacred See that presides over a group of self-governing churches of the Orthodox Christian world;

Whereas, The government of Turkey refuses to recognize the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;

Whereas, The Greek Orthodox Christian Church is a minority religion in Turkey;

Whereas, The Turkish government has confiscated most of the properties of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and has placed a 42 percent retroactive tax on the Balukli Hospital run by the Ecumenical Patriarchate;

Whereas, The government of Turkey has limited the candidates available for selection as the Ecumenical Patriarchate to Turkish nationals and reneged on its agreement to reopen to the Theological School at Halki, impeding training for the clergy;

Whereas, The Theological School of Halki, the only educational institution for Orthodox Christianity in Turkey, was closed in 1971 by Turkish authorities under a law requiring that higher education in religion and minority training be controlled by the state;



Whereas, A resolution passed by the United States Congress requested that the Orthodox Theological School of Halki in the Republic of Turkey be reopened in order to promote religious freedom and restore Hagia Sophia, which has been turned into a museum, to its original purpose as a church;

Whereas, The European Union, a group of nations with a common goal of promoting the peace and well-being of its people, began accession negotiations with Turkey on October 3, 2005;

Whereas, The European Union defined membership criteria for accession to the European Union at the Copenhagen European Council in 1993, obligating candidate countries to have achieved certain levels of reform, including stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, adherence to the rule of law, and respect for the protection of minorities and human rights;

Whereas, Under the terms of the draft European Union Constitution, current and prospective member nations should have the goal of eliminating discrimination based on any grounds, such as sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any opinion, national minority membership, property, birth, disability, age, or sexual orientation; and

Whereas, Turkey's current treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with the membership conditions and goals of the European Union: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly urges Turkey to
- 2 respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical
- 3 Patriarchate and urges the European Union to deny Turkey membership
- 4 in the European Union until Turkey changes its policies regarding the
- 5 Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- 6 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of



- 1 Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to the members of the
- 2 Indiana Congressional delegation.

